

What is the Shelter Support Program?

The Shelter Support Program is part of an inter-departmental state effort that helps local governments and private, nonprofit organizations to provide for the needs of New Jersey's homeless individuals and families. Through state and federal resources, the program offers grants for projects that create or expand shelters and transitional housing facilities and/or improve the quality of existing facilities.

Shelter Support Program's Goals

The Shelter Support Program aims to:

- ✓ Make additional shelter beds or transitional housing units available for homeless families and individuals
- ✓ Improve the quality of existing emergency shelter or transitional housing by eliminating code violations or improving health and safety conditions
- ✓ Create new transitional housing programs or expand shelter services to include transitional housing programs



DCA's Division of Housing and Community Resources is committed to building neighborhoods. Working with nonprofit organizations, private developers and the NJ Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA), the Division is responsible for grant and loan programs that promote economic and community development through housing and other support services.



James E. McGreevey
Governor



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

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Shelter Support Program

Helping You Help the Homeless



James E. McGreevey
Governor



Susan Bass Levin
Commissioner

**Greetings from
Governor James E. McGreevey
and
Commissioner Susan Bass Levin**

We are dedicated to ensuring that every person in New Jersey has a safe place to call home. That is why the Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) Shelter Support Program, and programs like it, are so important to us.

Through DCA's Division of Housing and Community Resources, the Shelter Support Program helps to renovate and improve existing homeless shelters and transitional housing, construct new homeless shelters and transitional housing, and pay certain social services and operating costs. This program displays our commitment to provide safe programs and facilities for homeless individuals, families and victims of domestic violence.

This brochure offers information on the Shelter Support Program and instructions on how you can apply for grants to help fight homelessness.

We commend your interest in this program and hope you decide to join us in our effort to make a positive difference in the lives of individuals and families across New Jersey.


James E. McGreevey
Governor


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How to Apply for Shelter Support Funding?

All units of general local government and private, nonprofit organizations in New Jersey are eligible to apply for funding through the Shelter Support Program. DCA notifies all municipal and county governments, known shelter providers and the county Comprehensive Emergency Assistance System committees about the annual funding process through a Request for Proposal. You also can find information about the annual funding process and grant applications on DCA's Division of Housing and Community Resources Web site at www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr.

How Do I Know if My Organization is Eligible to Apply?

In order to make this process as simple as possible, below is a list of questions the Shelter Support Program uses to evaluate grant applications.

Does the applicant:

- ✓ Create additional shelter beds or transitional housing units, correct serious code violations and/or create a transitional housing program?
- ✓ Have documentation for the project's need and/or reasonable project costs?
- ✓ Have a commitment of other funds?
- ✓ Have the ability to continue to operate the program after Shelter Support funds are exhausted?
- ✓ Have provision of comprehensive social services?
- ✓ Have the ability to proceed with the project within a reasonable time frame?

How Can My Organization Use Shelter Support Program Funds?

Below is a list of activities program funds may be used for:

- ✓ Acquisition, renovation, major rehabilitation, and/or conversion of buildings for emergency shelters or transitional housing
- ✓ Construction of new emergency shelters or transitional housing
- ✓ Providing essential services, including physical and mental health, substance abuse, education, food, housing placement, employment training and placement, childcare, and transportation
- ✓ Maintenance and operating costs, including rent, insurance, utilities, and furnishings and equipment, but not administrative and non-social service salaries

Priority is given to:

- ✓ Capital improvement projects that will create additional shelter beds or correct code violations
- ✓ Shelters and transitional housing facilities that provide comprehensive case management services to help their clients achieve independent living

For more information about the Shelter Support Program, call (609) 292-3846